Town of Warner, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
Warner Town Hall
August 5, 2026
Zoom meeting: *https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85055760896*
Passcode: 1234 Meeting ID: 850 5576 0896

Warner Conservation Commission (WCC) Members present: Michael Amaral, Ken Cogswell, Susi von Oettingen, Doug Allen, and Nancy Martin, Chair. No one attended on Zoom.

Members of the public present: Barbara Marty, Bob Holmes, Mary Allen

Meeting began at 7:05 pm.

1. Approve July Minutes – Approved with no edits.

2. Exit 9 CATCH Housing & Dollar General / WCC Conservation Easement – Update by Nancy Martin. A planned site walk with members of the Planning Board was not able to be arranged due to dense, invasive vegetation and no permission was granted by the owner of the property to mow a 5 foot path to allow for access (landowner did not respond to request for mowing). During the Planning Board meeting it was decided to have 2 site walks, one for the Warner DPW and one for the WCC. Suggestion was made to not have a site walk due to the dense vegetation, but instead to give a presentation to the Planning Board regarding the ecological values of the conservation easement. Will use maps from the Natural Resource Inventory to present the ecological values.

3. Bear Baiting in Town Forests – The selectboard was asked by hunters for permission to put out bear bait on Chandler Reservation. The Selectboard gave permission for the hunters to bait bear on the Chandler Reservation. It is unknown whether the application is currently pending with the Department of Environmental Services, Wildlife Division or has been granted. A discussion followed about the pros and cons of bear baiting and what, if any, position the WCC should take on bear baiting on town lands. Some NH towns require a deposit to ensure bait stations are removed when done, copies of permits, and other guard rails etc. New Hampshire is one of 12 states that allow bear baiting. NH Fish and Game have no specific policies regarding bear baiting on State lands other than permission from the landowner, location of bait station, and valid hunting permit. Nancy Martin will reach out to the Chandler Reservation to see if they are aware of the permission to bait bear and/or in agreement.

4. Collaboration for Kearsarge Mountain

a. Regional Conservation Commissions- "Friends of the Mountain" – Nancy Martin has contacted the Kearsarge, Ragged, Sunapee Greenway group regarding the proposed mountain bike trail. Verbal support for developing this commission has been given by Bradford and Sutton conservation commissions.

5. Update on MacBride/Holmes – Recommendation from the town council was for the WCC to not get involved in the boundary dispute.

6. An Invitation to Wonder- WCC Public Wetlands Screening – Nancy Martin reached out to the Warner Public Library to set a date for a public screening. Nancy Martin will check out some dates in November.

7. Turtle Rescue and Crossing signs – A suggestion was made to discuss the turtle crossing signs and locations with David Carroll (Michael Amaral will follow up). Susi von Oettingen will look in to the cost of signs. Turtle rescue leagues are located in New Hampshire (Nottingham – www.nhturtlerescue.org) and Massachusetts (www.turtlerescueleague.org). WCC will provide outreach information to the public for helping injured turtles.

8. Forestry/Wetlands permits – Ken Cogswell reported two new forestry permits to add to the 4 previous permits issued earlier this year.

9. Monitoring Town Parcels – Ken Cogswell submitted his report for his conservation easement monitoring.

10. New Business –
    a. Nancy Martin received a copy of the Merrimack County 2026 Local Food Guide.
    b. The WCC also received a copy of the site plan for the CATCH project (copies are available at the Town Hall and on line).
    c. There will be a clean up effort at the Foster Farm to prepare a field for the new farmer/owner of the farm. August 11, 10 am.
    d. The Bradford/Sutton snowmobile club is proposing to coordinate with the Kearsarge Snail Trail snowmobile club to fill the gullies on the Class 6 portion of Davis Road in Warner. Susi von Oettingen briefly discussed the potential filling in of gullies and recommended that the organizations discuss the filling with the WCC to ensure that the fill does not affect the stream crossing the road at the south end.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.